# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE DIVISION 1:18-cv-151-RJC-DSC

DAVID M. DOWELL,	)
Plaintiff,	) )
v.	) ) ORDER
NANCY A. BERRYHILL, Commissioner of Social Security Administration,	) ) )
Defendant.	) ) )

THIS MATTER comes before the Court on the parties' cross-motions for summary judgment, (Doc. Nos. 9, 13), and the parties' associated briefs and exhibits; and the Magistrate Judge's Memorandum and Recommendation ("M&R"), (Doc. No. 16), recommending that this Court grant Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment, deny Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment, reverse the Commissioner's decision, and remand this matter for a new hearing. The parties have not filed objections to the M&R and the time for doing so has expired. Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(2).

#### I. BACKGROUND

No party has objected to the Magistrate Judge's statement of the factual and procedural background of this case. Therefore, the Court adopts the facts as set forth in the M&R.

## II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

A district court may assign dispositive pretrial matters, including motions to

dismiss, to a magistrate judge for "proposed findings of fact and recommendations." 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A) & (B). The Federal Magistrate Act provides that a district court "shall make a de novo determination of those portions of the report or specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made." Id. § 636(b)(1)(C); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(3). However, "when objections to strictly legal issues are raised and no factual issues are challenged, de novo review of the record may be dispensed with." Orpiano v. Johnson, 687 F.2d 44, 47 (4th Cir. 1982). De novo review is also not required "when a party makes general or conclusory objections that do not direct the court to a specific error in the magistrate judge's proposed findings and recommendations." Id. Similarly, when no objection is filed, "a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must 'only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation." Diamond v. Colonial Life & Acc. Ins. Co., 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 72, advisory committee note).

#### III. DISCUSSION

Under Rule 72(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a district court judge shall make a de novo determination of any portion of an M&R to which specific written objection has been made. A party's failure to make a timely objection is accepted as an agreement with the conclusions of the Magistrate Judge. See Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 149–50 (1985). No objection to the M&R having been filed, and the time for doing so having passed, the parties have waived their right to de novo review of any issue covered in the M&R. Nevertheless, this Court has conducted a

full review of the M&R and other documents of record and, having done so, hereby finds that the recommendation of the Magistrate Judge is, in all respects, in accordance with the law and should be approved. Accordingly, the Court ADOPTS the recommendation of the Magistrate Judge as its own.

# IV. CONCLUSION

### IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

- 1. The Magistrate Judge's M&R, (Doc. No. 16), is **ADOPTED**;
- 2. Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment, (Doc. No. 9), is **GRANTED**;
- 3. Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment, (Doc. No. 13), is **DENIED**;
- 4. The Commissioner's decision is **REVERSED**;
- 5. This matter is **REMANDED** for a new hearing pursuant to Sentence Four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g); and
- 6. The Clerk of Court is directed to close this case.

Signed: April 24, 2019

Robert J. Conrad, Jr.

United States District Judge